

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 195

By DeBerry L

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Minerva Johnican of Memphis.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Minerva Johnican; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Johnican was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Minerva Johnican served with acumen and alacrity as a civic leader; she began her service to Shelby County in 1976 when she was elected as the County Commissioner, she held the position until 1982 and earned the respect of her peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of her work; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Johnican went on to serve as City Councilwoman At-Large from 1983 to 1987; and

WHEREAS, between 1990 and 1994, she served as the first African-American woman elected as Criminal Court Clerk, Ms. Johnican's stellar performance in this role led her to become the recipient of three national awards; and

WHEREAS, she is most well known for her attempts to modernize the operations and procedures of the legal system to ensure that the clerk's office worked more efficiently and that criminals do not slip through the cracks; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Johnican earned her Bachelor of Science from Tennessee State University in 1961 and later received her librarian certification from the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, she was a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and a lifelong member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable life and career, Ms. Johnican was the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions including: the History Makers Award, presented by National Council of Negro Women; the Distinguished Leadership Award, presented by the National Conference of Christians and Jews; and an Award of Appreciation, given by Big Brothers Big Sisters; and

WHEREAS, Minerva Johnican was an active and devout member of the Parkway Gardens Presbyterian Church, which she served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, she was a groundbreaker and used her success in the public arena as a means to open doors of opportunity for other women and African-Americans; and

WHEREAS, a trailblazer in Memphis politics and community service, Minerva Johnican worked to make Memphis and Shelby County a better place; her contributions to the community will not soon be forgotten; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Johnican leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Minerva Johnican, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Ms. Johnican.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.